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SANDY URBAN COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE
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AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

FOR

1956

OF THE


MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Medical Officer of Health

AND

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

The Lion Press, Sandy



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SANDY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health and sanitary circumstances in the Sandy Urban District for 1956. It will be seen from the statistical table on page 4 the death rate and the infant mortality rate were both lower than the rates for the district for 1955 and very considerably lower than those for England and Wales. In fact the infant mortality rate was the lowest with one exception, since 1946. The birth rate was 18.1 and was much higher than the rate of 15.7 for the county as a whole.

Of the 35 deaths allocated to the area, 21 were due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, 7 were to Cancer and 7 to all other causes. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis or other infectious disease.

The number of infectious disease notified was 85 which included 35 cases of Whooping Cough and 41 cases of Measles. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis.

I should again wish to thank the members of the Council for their kind consideration and the Clerk and Public Health Inspector for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4362
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population	...	...	...	...	3870
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956	...	...	...	...	1285
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£37,504
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£156 17s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	36	26	62
Illegitimate	...	...	5	1	6
			—	—	—
			41	27	68

Crude Birth Rate per 1000 home population	17.6
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1000 home population	18.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.7

Still Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	0	2
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births	...	...			28.6
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...			23.0

Deaths

			Males	Females	Total
All causes	...	...	21	14	35
Crude Death Rate per 1000 home population	...	...			9.0
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 home population	...	...			9.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	...			11.7

Deaths from Diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

From Sepsis	...	...	—
From other causes	...	...	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
			—	—	—
			1	0	1

Rate for all infants per 1000 live births	...	...	14.7
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	23.8

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	7

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Cause of Death				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	21	14
1.	Tuberculosis. respiratory	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	—	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	2	—
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	4	1
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	6	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	1	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	1	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	—	—
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1946-1956

Year	Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales
1946	13.2	11.5	44.1	43	19.6	19.1
1947	15.1	12.0	46.0	41	18.6	20.5
1948	12.5	10.8	31.7	34	18.0	17.9
1949	11.0	11.8	18.5	32	14.8	16.7
1950	12.3	11.6	31.7	29.8	18.4	15.8
1951	12.3	12.5	32.3	29.6	16.9	15.5
1952	10.8	11.3	—	27.6	11.5	15.3
1953	8.5	11.4	15.9	26.8	16.8	15.5
1954	8.7	11.3	15.9	25.5	16.8	15.2
1955	10.6	11.7	16.7	24.9	16.0	15.0
1956	9.0	11.7	14.7	23.8	18.1	15.7

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers—

Medical Officer of Health—
C. A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—
R. W. Settle, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.

Laboratory Facilities

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

Services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946

1. Ambulance

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from Hospitals or Clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County :

Biggleswade...	Crab Lane ...	Tel.—Biggleswade 2295
Bedford ...	Bedford Road,	
	Kempston ...	Tel.—Bedford 5335 & 5336

2. Midwifery and Domociliary Nursing

Name and Address of Nurse—

Miss E. J. E. Callender, 68 St. Neots Road, Sandy, Beds.
Tel. No.—Sandy 105

3. Health Visiting

Name and Address of Health Visitor—

Miss M. C. Ramsey, 81 High Street, Blunham, Beds.

4. Clinic

Child Welfare

Church Room, Sandy—Every alternate Thursday afternoon

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

1. Venereal Disease Clinic

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing. The days and times of attendance are :

Males and Females ...	Wednesdays 5—7 pm
	Friday 3—5 pm

2. Tuberculosis Clinic

The Chest Clinic, Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The days and times of attendance are :

Monday	2 to 2.30 pm 6 to 6.30 pm	}	Refills (A.P. and P.P.)
Tuesday	9 am to 12.30 pm 2 to 5 pm		
Wednesday	9 am to 12.30 pm 2 to 3.30 pm 3.30 to 5 pm	}	Contacts. Doctors Mini Film Clinic. (To examine films sent by Factory Doctors)
Thursday	9 am to 5.30 pm		
			Males—old and new patients

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 22nd February, 1956, is typical.

Chemical Results in parts per Million

Appearance—Clear and bright.

Turbidity	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Colour	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Filtered 3
Odour	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Reaction pH	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.0
Total Solids	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	375
Chlorine present as Chloride	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	245
Hardness—Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	245
Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	147
Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.000
Metals—Iron	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.2
Other Metals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Absent
Oxygen absorbed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.00
Residual Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Absent

*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar

1 day at 37 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 per ml.
2 days at 37 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 „
3 days at 20 degs. C	.....	.....	.....	0 „

	Present in	Absent from	Probable Number
Presumptive coli-aerogenes reaction	..... —ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (type 1)	..... —ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	..... —ml.	100 ml.	

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1956

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
Whooping Cough	35	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	3
Measles	41	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...
Jaundice ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1956

Disease	Under 1 year		1—3		3—5		5—10		10—15		15—25		25—35		35—45		45—65		65 and upwards		Total all ages
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Whooping Cough ...	1	3	8	6	2	1	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	6
Measles	4	7	3	14	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...	1

Cleansing of Verminous People. Scabies Order, 1941

Treatment for infected persons is available at the Borough Treatment Centre, Bedford, by arrangement with the Borough of Bedford. No persons received treatment during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The figures given below show the number of children under 15 years of age who have received protective treatment against Diphtheria, and have been given by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer. It is still necessary to urge all parents to give their children the protection which can be had free of cost from their own doctor or at a Welfare Clinic or at school.

The number of cases of and deaths from Diphtheria have shown a remarkable decline since the introduction of immunisation and no case has been notified in the district for several years. In order to ensure that outbreaks of this disease will not occur in the future, it is necessary that at least 75 per cent. of all children under the age of 15 years should be protected effectively against the disease, i.e., they should have had either a primary immunisation or a "booster" injection within the last five years.

Protection against Whooping Cough

Since 1st November, 1956, the County Council have made facilities available for the protection against Whooping Cough of young children who have not had the disease and whose parents are desirous of having such protection given to their children. The Whooping Cough vaccine can be given alone or in combination with Diphtheria prophylactic.

I. Primary Immunisation during the year 1956.

Number of children during the year 1956 who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents).								
Age at 31.12.56, i.e. born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5—9 1947—51	10—14 1942—46	Total under 15
Number Immunised	24	23	2	1	...	2	6	58

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation

Age at date of notificaton	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisat'n	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisat'n
Under 1	Under 1	..	...
1	1	...	...
2	2	...	...
3	3	...	...
4	4	...	...
5—9	5—9	...	...
10—14	10—14	...	...
Totals

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1947-1956.

	New Cases			Deaths		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmon'y	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmon'y	Total
1947	2	...	2	...	...	...
1948	1	2	3	...	...	...
1949	6	1	7	2	...	2
1950	1	1	2	...	...	...
1951	3	1	4	...	...	...
1952	2	...	2	...	...	...
1953	1	...	1	1	...	1
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...
1955	1	1	2	...	...	...
1956	1	1	2	...	...	...

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report.

1. Drainage and Sewerage

The town is sewered along the main streets. The sewer runs from the Station Bridge, along High Street, Bedford Road, and a portion of London Road, with branches from St. Swithun's Way, Cambridge Road, Pleasant Place, Park Road, King's Road, The Avenue, Fuller's Café, Laburnum Road, Church Path, Queen's Road and South Road. A second sewer runs from Brickhill Road across the Roods into St. Neots Road opposite the Council Offices and connects to the first sewer at the junction of St. Neots Road and Bedford Road, and has a branch from Northcroft. A third commences at the Council Offices and runs north along St. Neots Road, West Road to South Road, and through the gardens of West Road to London Road, connecting to number one opposite All Saints Church, with branches from Longfield Road, East Road and South Road. A fourth commences in St. Neots Road approximately opposite East Road and runs north to London Road then south in London Road, where it connects with the first sewer at Hamlet End Farm, with a branch from Carter Street. From London Road opposite Hamlet End Farm the sewage is conveyed in a 15" main to the Sewage Disposal Works.

Swaden, Stratford Road, Station Road, Ivel Road, Tempsford Road, Beeston Green and Seddington are not sewered,

2. Rivers and Streams

The Ivel Internal Drainage Board undertake the cleaning of all streams.

3. Houses connected to Sewer, etc.

1,109 Houses connected to sewer. 95 Houses with water closets connected to septic tanks. 81 Houses with pails.

Conversions from Pails to Water Closets

1945... 1	1948...15	1951...—	1953...15	1955...2
1946... 3	1949... 1	1952 ..51	1954 .. 2	1956.. —
1947...20	1950 .. 1			

4. Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse and the emptying of pails is carried out by the Council's workmen. The work is generally satisfactory. The emptying of cesspools is carried out by contract.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :

Total number of visits made	...	...	...	77,927
Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	70,009
Privies emptied	...	...	...	—
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	18
Pail closets emptied	...	...	...	7,228
Loads of refuse and night soil removed	...	...	...	835

Street Gullies are emptied regularly and street scavenging is done weekly.

Salvage—None.

5. Public Health Inspection of the Area

Inspections for housing defects	...	...	...	72
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	84
Statutory Notices, Housing Act, 1936, sec. 9	...	...	...	—
Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	—
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	—
Statutory Notices (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	—
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit at service of formal notices :				
(a) By owner	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	—
Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	17
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	17
Housing Act, 1949 (sec. 20). Grants made for improvements and extensions to property during the year	...	...	...	13
Routine Inspections	...	...	...	420
Dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	6

6. Shops

No action with regard to shops was found necessary.

7. Factories and Workshops

There are 41 Factories and Workshops on the Register and 104 visits have been made.

Builders	.....	} 14	Electrician	.....	1
Joiners	.....		Millers	.....	3
Painters	.....		Motor Engineers	.....	7
Plumbers	.....		Printers	.....	1
Bakers	.....	3	Saddlers	.....	2
Blacksmith	.....	1	Stone Mason	.....	1
Boot Repairers	.....	3	Radio Engineers	.....	1
Cycle Repairers	.....	1	Coach Builder	.....	1
Gas Works	.....	1	Clothing Factory	.....	1

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I of Act

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Ocoupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorites	41	104	...	...
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority				
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	...	...	...	...
Total	41	104	...	...

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness
Overcrowding
Inadequate Ventilation
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient
(b) Unsuitable or def'tive
(c) Not separate for sexes
Other Offences against the Act not including offences relating to outwork
Total

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1)c	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel making, etc	4	...	...	...

Section 111

Notices served—NIL.

Prosecutions—NIL.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

4 Persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order.

1 Cowkeeper and wholesale Purveyor of Milk.

3 Retail Purveyors only.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughter houses in the Urban District.

Shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been duly inspected and found to be in good order.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made.

Imported and Home-killed Meat	.....	.....	190 lbs.
Canned Meat	.....	.....	1 can

(c) Ice Cream

Ten premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. It is purchased from reputable manufacturers. Ice cream is not manufactured in the Urban District.

Sewage Disposal Works

There are now 1,109 houses connected to the sewer. The majority of the houses along the High Road have now been connected up to the sewer. The sewage from The Baulk and the High Road is forced over the River Ivel by means of two electric motors, automatic float control and squirrel cage type pumps situated in The Baulk.

The motors and pumps have given excellent results, and require the minimum of attention.

The sewage arrives at the works 13' 3" below ground level and forced to the Continuous Flow Tanks by two Mirlees-Watson Electric Motors and centrifugal pumps. The motors have given an excellent performance. The motors are automatic and are governed by electrodes.

Several samples of the effluent were taken during the year and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination, the analysis of which proved satisfactory.

During the year the electric motors and the pumps at the Sewage Disposal Works have been completely overhauled and have since given good results.

A new aeration bed was also completed during the year.

Summary of Electricity Consumed

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	797	755	1070	949	1373	1021	1230	1387
February	684	852	1130	867	1215	1051	1013	999
March	750	774	1248	1203	1162	1109	1072	1173
April	735	842	1264	1048	1084	1008	1034	1013
May	874	933	1162	1132	1132	1105	1275	1069
June	767	858	1115	979	1126	1045	1214	1252
July	730	1320	1080	995	1163	969	1063	1066
August	694	1050	1077	1130	889	1183	1068	1095
September	608	880	932	991	1394	974	989	1085
October	851	853	863	1166	1021	959	1099	1154
November	789	1020	1083	1306	1042	1102	1157	920
December	761	824	935	1473	987	1206	1123	1039

Rainfall

	Total	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours		No. of days with	
		Inches	Date	.01 or over	.04 or over
January	2.75	.45	22	14	13
February .....	.10	.05	4	3	1
March .....	.41	.23	4	3	3
April .....	.72	.30	12	7	5
May .....	.37	.17	29	4	3
June	2.08	.68	8	11	8
July	3.75	1.26	19	11	9
August	3.54	.64	3	21	14
September ...	1.45	.35	4	9	9
October	1.23	.55	1	13	6
November ...	.62	.16	14	10	6
December ...	2.27	.57	15	15	13
	<hr/> 18.69			<hr/> 121	<hr/> 90

COUNCIL HOUSING

1140 defects were dealt with during the year.

Council Houses Painted

1946	...	14	1952	...	NIL
1947	...	69	1953	...	83
1948	...	48	1954	...	79
1949	...	91	1955	...	81
1950	...	65	1956	...	81
1951	...	81			

Number of Houses owned by the Council

1945	...	225	1951	...	356
1946	...	235 (10 pre-fab bungalows)	1952	...	376
1947	...	243	1953	...	406
1948	...	301	1954	...	406
1949	...	330	1955	...	406
1950	...	340	1956	...	412

Number of Houses erected since 1945

	Local Authority			Private	
1946	...	10 (pre-fab bungalows)	...	...	2
1947	...	8	...	...	2
1948	..	58	...	...	3
1949	...	29	...	...	5
1950	...	10	...	...	7
1951	...	16	...	...	2
1952	...	20	...	...	8
1953	...	30	...	...	6
1954	...	NIL	...	...	5
1955	...	NIL	...	...	4
1956	...	6	...	...	1

Plans submitted during the year

APPROVED

Dwelling Houses—(a) Local Authority	...	...	NIL
(b) Private	...	...	2
(c) Additions and Extensions	...	...	22
Private Garages	...	...	5
Agricultural and Horticultural Buildings	...	...	7
Accesses	...	...	2
Electricity Board	...	...	5
Gas Board	...	...	1
Caravans	...	...	1
Extensions to Offices	...	...	1
Petrol Filling Stations	...	...	2
Advertisements	...	...	1

WITHDRAWN

Extensions to Dwelling	1
------------------------	-----	-----	---

REFUSED

Applications to develop sites	...	...	4
Garage and change of user	...	...	1

Surveyor's Inspections

Individual Houses in course of construction	...	142
New Streets and Sewers	...	—
Alterations and Extensions to existing property	...	82
Sewage Disposal Works	...	352

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

New Streets and Sewers

There were no extensions to the roads or sewers during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their consideration and support extended to me during the year, and to the Clerk to the Council, and the staff for their kind assistance and loyal co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

REG. W. SETTLE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.,

Surveyor.